

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Update on establishing a Kentucky Foundation for Innovation (Attachments under separate cover)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.645, 158.6451

History/Background:

Existing Policy. It is widely held that to increase student achievement for all Kentucky students requires effective leaders in every school, effective educators in every classroom, and healthy and engaged students who come to school ready to learn. This requires providing adequate support and resources so these requirements can be met. With local, state and federal funding streams all being affected by budget cuts and lower tax revenues, it is imperative we ensure that we are taking advantage of all possible funding sources in order to provide the best learning environment in our schools.

At the February Kentucky Board of Education meeting, the board gave staff the go ahead to pursue the establishment of a foundation for innovation in Kentucky. This foundation would be an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit and would have its own board of trustees and staff. Once established, the foundation would be an independent and separate legal entity.

We have continued our research and begun taking the initial steps toward the realization of the foundation. The steps taken to date include:

- 1) Continuing our conversations with Dr. Helayne Jones, CEO of the Colorado Legacy Foundation (CLF). The CLF has a strategic plan and goals that mirror the concept we are working to establish.
- 2) Legal staff is working on the incorporation of the foundation and creating a plan for transition to the independent foundation.
- 3) Creation of a concept paper that gives potential trustee members, staff, potential start-up funding sources and other interested stakeholders a strong overview of the foundation and its goals. (Under Separate Cover)
- 4) Identification of potential foundation board members.
- 5) Additional steps as laid out in the Foundation Timeline. (Under Separate Cover)

Policy Issue(s):

The policy issues are related to making sure the foundation, while establishing its independence from the KDE, is committed to supporting the initiatives and policies of the KBE and KDE.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

In order to achieve our goal of every student graduating college/career ready, it is essential that we provide our schools and districts with resources that are adequate to ensure student success. It is also imperative that we have a partner that can provide a significant level of resource support to our work. By creating a foundation focused on securing support for innovation and student achievement, as well as providing supplemental support to our work, achieving our goals is more realistic.

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